

Cover Note
Bay Delta Conservation Plan
Comprehensive Conservation Strategy
(Draft #2)
December 5, 2008

This document contains a working draft of the conservation strategy for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The draft includes several core program elements, including measures for improving conveyance and operations; for expanding functional habitats across the Delta; and for reducing “other stressors. The comprehensive conservation strategy will appear in chapter 3 of the full BDCP.

This working draft is intended to reflect the progress to date by the BDCP Steering Committee in preparing the conservation strategy for the BDCP. It is intended to enable the Steering Committee to confirm the core elements of the conservation strategy as they now stand and thereby assist in focusing the remaining work to complete the proposed plan by June, 2009, when it will then undergo further detailed environmental analysis. It is also intended to describe more fully core elements of the conservation strategy that will be evaluated using DRERIP conceptual models in January, 2009, as scheduled.

Specifically, this working draft contains the following:

- a. an annotated outline of all of the elements of Chapter 3, *Conservation Strategy*, of the BDCP;
- b. a working draft of the goals and objectives for the Plan;
- c. a description of the overall conceptual approach to conservation, broken down into an overview of the basic approach and strategy, and then further described on a more region-specific basis (for the North Delta, the West Delta; the East Delta and the South Delta);
- d. a detailed list of those conservation measures that are expected to be core elements of the overall conservation strategy, organized into the three categories of (1) water operations and conveyance; (2) physical habitat restoration; and (3) other stressors; and.
- e. an initial description of the process for the implementation of an Adaptive Management Program.

Important further work remains to complete the conservation strategy. This work includes:

- a. further enumeration of the operating parameters for the state and federal water projects for both the near and long-term;
- b. further refinement of all elements of the conservation strategy, including refinement of the conservation measures and implementation metrics and the addition of other measures to strengthen the strategy;
- c. further technical reviews of the strategy through the use of DRERIP and other models to further inform the planning process;
- d. review and input from members of the public including local governments and other in-Delta interests, and other stakeholders; and
- e. further coordination and integration with other plans and processes to ensure that the conservation strategy properly fits into and builds upon those other efforts.

This end-of-year review will provide members of the Steering Committee with an opportunity to review the work of the BDCP to date in a comprehensive fashion and share advice on how best to make refinements in 2009 to improve the overall draft of the conservation strategy when it is submitted for formal environmental review.

All elements of the conservation strategy remain open for refinement as the planning process proceeds into and through formal environmental review.